VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2 March 2005 www.thule.af.mil

Let there be light!

First light festival marks return of the sun

821st ABG Public Affairs Staff Report

After nearly four months of waiting, Team Thule finally caught their first glimpse of the sun as it broke the horizon over South Mountain at approximately 1:05 p.m. Feb. 21.

To celebrate the return of the sun, the men and women at Thule did what they know how to do best — Party!

Dressed in their best Mardi Gras outfits, members of Team Thule entered one of the base's aircraft hangars and were immediately whisked away to a carnival celebration. A New Orleans-style Cajun Buffet also set the evening's theme and the band "Plunge" provided music to keep the party going.

"The festival itself was a well planned and exciting--the theme and decorations were terrific, the food was good, and the band was outstanding," said Ms. Misty Avilla, Det 3 Supply Technician.

The festival brought much more to members of Team Thule than just decorations, food and music.

"My favorite part of festival was that it brought the Thule community together," said Ms. Avilla. "Everyone seemed to be in high spirits and enjoying themselves. It was as if Thule had come out of hibernation!"

Because of its location, 700 miles north of the Arctic Circle and approximately 946 miles from the North Pole, Thule experiences constant darkness from November until February and constant sunlight from May to August.

The First Light Festival has become a tradition at the air base, to officially welcome back the sun and end the "dark season."

Even "Mardi Gras Man", Maj. Joseph "Jeep" Wedding, 821st Support Squadron Commander, was glad to welcome the sun.

"Seeing the sun provides a sense of time passing. Sunrise and sunset keys the psychological clock that days are flying storm season, Maj. Wedding stresses that safety must continue by," he said. "It also gives a sense of confidence about going to be at the forefront of Team Thule's thoughts. back outside for activities that the long months of winter darkness deprived us of."

With the return of sunshine and ultimately, the end of the with the sun beating down brightly."





Photos by 1st Lt Jennifer Tribble

Top: Members of Team Thule joined together Feb. 26 to officially welcome back the sun at the First Light Festival. The festival, featuring a Mardi Gras theme, provided guests a taste of New Orleans with a Cajun-style buffet, while the band, Plunge, gave everyone music to celebrate with. Above: Maj. "Jeep" Wedding, also known as "Mardi Gras Man", shakes some beads and shows his carnival spirit at the celebration.

"The options (for outdoor activities) seem much greater, but the frigid temperatures are still a major safety concern even

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VIEWPOINT: Unapologetic Accountability

By Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy Scoggins 821st ABG Chief Enlsited Manager

I once read, "Great teams do not can do this!" wait for the leader to remind members when they are not pulling their weight."

Because there is no lack of clarity explode about what they have committed to do, overall success of the team.

11 footballers hit the field as a team. for their actions. They have one aim in mind - to win. It team in order to win.

team because people:

Buy into to the team goal - they're on a mission to succeed

Put the team first – after all, there's tribution. no 'I' in team

on time, pull their weight and cooperate

Help each other - they do something tivity. about problems instead of just worrying about them

Ask for help - no one's perfect

if someone's not pulling their weight or right and the mission will suffer. can't do the job

Communicate - they share ideas and to live longer than should be allowed. don't keep things bottled up until they

each team member is comfortable call- ourselves working in a group. A group, tant to hold others accountable out of a ing one another out on actions and be- however, is not a true team until all fear of conflict. Despite popular belief, haviors that don't contribute to the group members work towards accom- however, conflict is actually good. plishing the same objectives and hold Taken a step further, on match days, each other, and themselves, accountable find new ways of dealing with situations

own thing. Rather, each player needs to success of the group. Less effective other. contribute their individual talents to the teams typically resort to reporting unac-

> Gossip can be even more detrimen- organization. tal to the team than the absence of conand promote overall increased productimes it is necessary.

at authority and generally poisons the jeopardize them become easier to call workplace climate. If you can't trust out. Trust each other - it's soon obvious your co-workers, the job won't get done

These actions are not only destruc-Believe in the team - they think, "We tive to the morale of the team; they are inefficient and allow easily fixable issues

Don't let the simplicity of accountability hide the difficulty of making it a In our daily duties, we often find reality. Most people can become hesi-

Conflict can push team members to and problems. Conflict can be healthy, Airmen should remove behaviors as it requires team members to commuwould be hopeless if they each did their and actions that don't contribute to the nicate differences of opinion with each

Most importantly, conflict brings ceptable behavior to the leader of the problems to the surface, before they You know if you're part of a good group, or worse yet, back-channel gos- have time to fester and grow into permanent fixtures of discontent within an

It is not easy to teach strong leaders In any organization, verbal of a team to confront their peers about sensitivity can make for smoother com- behavioral issues that hurt the team. Respect each other - they show up munications, which enhance teamwork Conflict itself, is never easy, but often

> But when the goals of the team have Intra-office sniping only chips away been clearly defined, the behaviors that

Upcoming Birthdays

Tech Sgt. John Link	March 4	Tech Sgt. Dave Franklin	April 8
Airman Kathryn Willson	March 7	Tech Sgt. Dean Warren	April 9
Master Sgt. Scott Kastner	March 10	Capt Cory Baker	April 10
	March 11	Chief Jimmy Scoggins	April 12
Tech Sgt. David Angermuller	March 12	Col John Haven	April 13
Master Sgt. Zanitta Kisner	March 17	A1C Glenda Genwright	April 15
A1C Rebecca Cervantes	March 18	Staff Sgt. Brian Valentine	April 16
Senior Airman Sara Sword	March 19	Staff Sgt. Michael Wheeler	April 21
Senior Airman LaPeachez Clark	March 22	Capt Joe Gallagher	April 25
Capt Mark Arzate	March 23	Lt Col "Joey" Hinson	April 27
Staff Sgt. Jeff Saunders	March 24	2nd Lt. Chris Burch	April 29
Tech Sgt. Ryan Wortman	March 29	Tech Sgt. Paul Evans	April 29
Senior Airman Jessica Palmer	March 31	A1C Thomas Poetain	April 29
		Capt. Tyler Nielsen	April 30

21 SW/CC visits "Top of the World"

821st ABG Public Affairs Staff Report

The men and women of Thule Air Base played host to Brig. Gen. Richard E. Webber, 21st Space Wing Commander, and Chief Master Sgt. James "Blue" E. Moody during a visit to the Air Force's farthest north installation 23-25 Feb.

Thule was the final stop on the General's world-wide visit to various geographically separated units throughout the 21st Space Wing.

During his visit, General Webber had the opportunity to survey recent storm damage that occurred during one of Thule's most powerful winter storms in the past decade.

General Webber also visited with members of the 821st Air Base Group, 12th Space Warning Squadron and Detachment 3, 22nd Space Operations Squadron.

While the General's visit was to survey the operational and day-to-day support missions of Thule, he also shared messages of safety, compliance and fitness with the troops here.









Photos by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble

Clockwise from Top: Stan Childress, Automated Remote Tracking System technician, explains the operation of an Air Force Satellite Control Network antenna console to Brig. Gen. Richard Webber, as ARTS trainee, Bobby Ledfort, looks on at the Thule Tracking Station Feb. 23.

Capt. Tyler Nielsen, 821st Support Squadron Civil Engineer Flight Commander, points out temporary roof repairs at Thule Air Base's Main Power Plant to Brig. Gen. Richard Webber on a tour of the facility Feb. 23. The damage was caused during a winter storm that blew through the base just days earlier, with winds that reached more than 150 mph.

Brig. Gen. Webber and Lt Col Hinson "look in" as Tech Sgt. Rodney Bryant, 12 SWS NCOIC of Evaluations, administers an Evaluation Check Ride on Thule's full fidelity simulator at BMEWS Site 1

Brig. Gen. Webber addresses the men and women of Thule Air Base during a commander's call at the community center Feb. 24. The general focused on safety, operational risk management, the creation of a culture of compliance and the importance of fitness for every Airman.

What does First Light mean to you?



"First Light means I can see again! More than that, it means that I've been here nearly a full year! As a contactor, that doesn't mean my time at Thule is almost over, but at least now I know what to expect if I stay on another season. To me, "First Light" also means Thule will be more exciting and lively! We'll have sunny days, warmer weather, Thule Trippin', organized outdoor activities, and best of all, healthier and happier co-workers."

Misty Avilla Det 3 Supply Technician, Harris



"First Light means that I'll be able to get back outside to explore the area around Thule. This is some of the most unique geography one could find and a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience it. "

Maj Joseph "Jeep" Wedding Commander, 821st Support Squadron



"First Light is fun because it's a free party with free food in the hangar. It's great because we get a rock and roll band and get to see everyone on base at the same place at the same time. It's got food and beer...good fun!"

Master Sgt. Charles "CD" Dickens 821st SPTS Support Agreements Manager



"First Light means the end of winter and the beginning of spring. The First Light Festival is fun because of all the great food and dancing."

Tech Sgt. Rodney Bryant 12 SWS NCOIC of Evaluations



Above DJ Mitch gets the party started at the festival. Bottom left: Maria Bach serves up First Light drinks specials with a smile. Bottom right: "Plunge" performs for the members of Team Thule during their performance at the First Light Festival.



Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble



Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble

CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE



African American History Month concluded with a banquet at the Top of the World Club featuring special guest speaker, Maj. Gen. Richard E. Spooner (center), Air National Guard Director of Command, Control, Communication and Computers. At the event, Maj. Gen. Spooner recognized the accomplishments of Thule Air Base's African American Heritage Committee. Committee members are from left to right: Capt. Joseph Thomas, Master Sgt. Curtis Green, Staff Sgt. Mario Williams, Senior Airman Jessica Palmer, Tech Sgt. Rodney Bryant, Mr. Arthur Moore, 2nd Lt. Geoffrey Wathen and Staff Sgt. Heather Chavez. The event marked Maj. Gen. Sponer's second visit to Thule Air Base

DFAS Web site moves

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The Defense providing an opportunity for enhanced Finance and Accounting Service public features in the future, officials said. Web site moved to a new location on

ate an error message notifying users of anywhere around the globe at any hour the move, officials said.

Webmasters who link to the site or pages within the site should review provide the following benefits: their links and update them accordingly, officials said.

dundancy to prevent down time and by of dod-dot-mil sites.

main available through March 31. corporate communications director, www.defense.gov/dfas. Then, users will be redirected to the "With this move, our customers can to pages on the previous site will gener- mation whenever they need it from sites. of the day or night."

Officials said the move also will

- -- Increase the speed of the site by more than 12 times.
- The move will enhance the per- -- Improve search capability to alformance of the site by providing re- low DFAS content to be found on any

- -- Allow DFAS content to be found www.dod.mil/dfas, "Our goal is to provide the best www.defense.mil/dfas, the Internet, officials announced March service and products possible to the www.pentagon.gov/dfas, men and women who defend Amer- www.defense.gov/dfas, The old site, www.defas.mil, will re- ica," said Claudia Bogard, the service's www.defenselink.mil/dfas or
- -- Create stronger alignment benew site, www.dod.mil/dfas, and links rely on DFAS for faster access to infort ween DFAS and DOD public Web
 - -- Reduce the burden of public Web traffic to DFAS networks.

Thule Airmen discover Greenland history

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble 821st ABG Public Affairs

Air Force personnel here got the opportunity to learn about the history of the world's largest island during two separate Greenlandic History and Culture presentations Feb 11 and Feb 25.

Greenland is a land full of history and home to a people proud of their colorful past and unique culture.

The presentations were aimed at introducing Airmen here to Greenland's history, geography, climate, population, language and political system.

Unites States, I would be approximately 70 miles north Quality Assurance Evaluator, curious about this land," said of the base. Johannes Rosing, the event's presenter and Greenland the movement and evolution the military life-style. native who has worked for of the Inuit culture through-Greenland Contractors since out Greenland to include the Greenland," he said. "In the 1996.

geographic layout of part of the Kingdom of Den-special in this world. Den-should try to learn about the and jewelry, mostly made from animal bone, were just a few of the mark since 1771, and ex- mark and Greenland is an culture." plained that approximately example of a colony that by an ice cap.

He said Greenland is composed of that," he said. 18 different communities. community and town is interest.



Qaanaaq, home to approxi-"If I came from the mately 650 people, located 821st Support Squadron Fire

creation of Greenland Home military, you may find your-Mr. Rosing detailed the Rule on May 1, 1979.

Within each community, the in addition to Greenland's drum dancing. area with the largest popula- fishing industry, tourism

Tech Sgt. Nathan Zaleski, found the presentation both Mr. Rosing also detailed informative and applicable to

"We're guests here in self in lots of different places "The Relations between throughout your career. Top: Mr. Johannes Rosing explains Greenlandic history to Airmen here

Airmen here got the opdifference between find the best solution. We resident, Navarana Sørensen ture today. Greenland communities and talk about our problems. I visited the base Feb. 25 to that am proud to be a part of demonstrate traditional about their capability to sur-Mr. Rosing explained that ing, folklore, clothing and climate for such a long

tion is known as a town, throughout the diverse re- ture to Thule Air Base, Mrs. me a lot about the area I'm Thule Air Base's closest gion has received increased Sørensen explained how now living in." Greenlanders in northwest-



Greenland, which has been a Denmark and Greenland are Everywhere you go, you Feb 11. Above: Greenlandic crafts Greenlandic items on display.

85% of the island is covered sometimes have had prob-portunity to learn even more ern Greenland lived in the lems with colonial power about Greenlandic history past and how they continue Mr. Rosing also explained But we talk things over to and culture when Qaanaaq to celebrate their unique cul-

> "I was amazed to learn northern Greenlandic cook- vive in such a harsh arctic time," said Zaleski. Bringing the Thule cul- presentations really taught

Want to submit a story? Get a free T-shirt if you do!! Call the 821st Air Base Group Public Affairs Office at ext. 5678, or stop by Bldg. 461, rm. 9 for more details

Survivors offer advice straight from the heart

By Lanorris Askew 78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -

- It began as a good day for Kim Manning. On March 29, 2004, her alarm ing and making better food choices, she smoker," she said. "That was my third clock's snooze button, which usually said she also has a much closer relation- risk factor for heart disease -- an eleworks overtime, got the day off, while a ship with her family and friends. warm shower and a hot cup of coffee propelled her out the door and off to 41, Mrs. Manning said she sees life work.

Less than half an hour later her good day went bad, real bad.

Just miles from her home she be- minds me of how blessed I am." came short of breath and noticed tightness in her chest.

vehicles on the road at 6 a.m., she said symptoms are not always present when to depend on others to do simple things she did not want to pull over, so she a heart attack occurs. continued toward the base. The closer she got, the worse her symptoms be- the maintenance directorate, had a com- thankful to hear the alarm clock every came.

"I broke out into a cold sweat," she said. "I was sweating so much that my she said, "and have no clue when I had silent heart attacks." hair was wet even though I had the air them." conditioner going full blast."

placed the earlier tightness. Mrs. Man- an ambulance was called. ning made it safely to the base and Senior Airman Thomas Garner jumped dergo a cardiac catheterization where a sweat. into action.

"By the time I got to the gate, I my vision was really blurred," she said.

She said she remembers Airman clearly on a monitor. Garner screaming "call 911 and make sure they send an ambulance."

him standing next to her taking her vitals and monitoring her condition while passes. another Airman found her home phone number and called her husband.

of the situation and call for aid may very family and friends," she said. "Even the well have added years to Mrs. Man-doctors were unnerved. They don't checked annually, check your blood ning's life, she said.

"How do you thank someone who helped saved your life?" she said. "Just has a fresh outlook on life. saying thank you is not nearly enough."

ways.

"You get your priorities in order of bed." very quickly when something like that happens," she said.

Besides living healthier by not smok-

through new eves.

said. "Every time I see my scar, it re- larly and reads food labels religiously.

tingling in the hand, tightness of the than my laptop," she said. "Instead of With no cell phone and very few chest and shortness of breath, those still being fiercely independent, I have

pletely different story.

"I've had three major heart attacks,"

tiny tube is inserted through the femoral which allows blockages to be seen feel blessed," she said.

"Looking back now, aside from real- completely nuts." izing that I was slowing down and that I Airman Garner's quick assessment was tired, it really blindsided me, my for everyone who hears her story. know why I'm alive."

"I don't let things bother me any-Nearly a year later, the budget ana- more," said the mother of two and drive or you're too tired." lyst is back at work and doing well, but grandmother of three. "If it's not someshe said her life has changed in many thing I can fix, I try to just let it go, and

I thank God every day when I get out

More than her outlook has changed though.

"Until 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 17, I was a vated cholesterol level and elevated Living life after a triple bypass at age blood pressure being the other two."

She said those factors in her life's equation have been reduced greatly. She "I appreciate life a lot more," she no longer smokes, she exercises regu-

"I can't do my own yard work. I While Mrs. Manning had the typical can't pick up anything much heavier for me like get clothes out of the Ann Hulett, a data systems analyst in washer, sweep and mop, but I'm so morning. I have been given a chance that few people receive. I survived three

She is getting better day by day. At When Ms. Hulett went in for a stress her last appointment, doctors estimated The sweating was accompanied by a test as a part of a routine annual physithat her heart is now functioning at 30 numbing sensation in her left hand, cal Nov. 17, three minutes into the test percent -- up from an earlier 20 percent. blurred vision and chest pains that re- she was pulled off of the treadmill and And, after two months of cardiac rehabilitation, she can run a 20-minute mile She was taken to the hospital to un- on the treadmill while barely breaking a

"I know that sounds lame, but conartery and run up into the heart. Once sidering two months ago I could barely couldn't move my left arm at all, and the tube is in place, doctors inject a dye get in or out of bed by myself, I truly

"People ask, how and why did I During the procedure, doctors come back to work after only six weeks. found six blockages each of which I guess it was (for) the same reason I Mrs. Manning said she also recalls ranged from 75 to 100 percent, and she was still alive - determination and inteswas immediately scheduled for five by-tinal fortitude. Also, I knew that if I had to stay home much longer I would be

Ms. Hulett said she has a message

"Please have your cholesterol pressure periodically and stop smok-Much like Mrs. Manning, Ms. Hulett ing," she said. "Listen to your body; question why you don't want to do things because it's too hot, it's too far to

Mrs. Manning agreed.

Cont'd on Pg. 9...

Teets discusses recapitalization, death benefit, core values

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- The acting secretary of the Air death benefits. Force spoke on Capitol Hill

ity and recent problems within the service.

izing the service's fleet of aging aircraft.

The Air Force's No. 1 challenge is to recapitalize our to survivors. aging systems," Mr. Teets said. "Our aircraft fleet averages

(Stratofortresses) and KC-135 (Stratotankers). Flightline and depot maintenance crews work magic to keep many of our legacy aircraft flying, but we cannot fly those planes forever."

Mr. Teets told senators that it is clear the Air Force's fleet needs to be modernized and that the service is already making headway in achieving that goal.

"The F/A-22 (Raptor), for example, will recapitalize our F-15 (Eagles); the F-35 capitalize our F-16 (Fighting

and the C-130J (Hercules) will modernize our intratheater airlift," he said.

in the president's fiscal 2006 budget. Mr. Teets said the Air Air Force Academy and other issues weigh on us all. Force will continue to focus on the aircraft, however, and will build a case for continuation of the program.

we have suggested in fiscal 2006 does not decrease the flow excellence in all we do." of manufacturing F/A-22s."

Another prime topic discussed was proposed changes to

New legislation on Capitol Hill aims to increase benefits March 2 about recapitalizing aging systems, the death gratu- to families of those killed while in military service. One bill would raise the military's death gratuity to families from In a testimony before the Senate Armed Services Com- \$12,000 to \$100,000 and will increase the payout from the mittee, Peter B. Teets explained the importance of modern- Service Members Group Life Insurance policy to \$400,000. The cash increases are just part of a total benefits package

"This death gratuity . . . is part of a total benefits pack-23 years old -- ranging from fairly young F-117 age," he said. "I'd like to see what that total benefits package (Nighthawks) and B-2 (Spirits), to venerable B-52 is. I've heard rough numbers calculated that say the death

> benefit is several million dollars, cumulative over a period of time.

> "I think the benefit is attractive and good; I'd like to try and understand what is the magnitude of the cost. We will have to defer something else in order to pay that cost," he said.

> The acting secretary also touched on recent controversies affecting the Air Force.

Mr. Teets told legislators he felt it was important to be open and honest with both Congress and the public



Joint Strike Fighter will re- Peter B. Teets, acting secretary of the Air Force, testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee March 3.

Falcons) and A-10 (Thunderbolt II) combat capabilities; about the Air Force's own internal and ethical issues.

We must be forthright about some of our recent problems," he said. "The Air Force has suffered from the mis-In recent weeks, cuts to the F/A-22 program appeared deeds of a few. Acquisition improprieties, problems at the

"Air Force leaders have a strong obligation to ensure our trust within our ranks, within the Congress and with the "This is going to be one of the key items studied in the American people. I am pledged to this aim, and to the core Quadrennial Defense Review," Mr. Teets said. "The budget values that guide us: integrity first, service before self and

Order your Thule Coin today!

Call Master Sgt. Charles Dickens at 2389.



Thule celebrates "first" sunrise — better late than never!







Above left: Master Sqt. Jerry Fowler prepares to "flip the switch" to turn off the Christmas tree in front of the 821st Air Base Group Headquarters. The tree was turned on in November when Thule said "goodbye" to the sun and prepared for the dark season. The sun rise ceremony, originally scheduled for the day the sun first peeks the horizon, was postponed due to a winter storm. Top right: (left to right) Maj. "Jeep" Wedding, Master Sgt. Scott Kastner, Staff Sgt. Heather Chavez and Master Sgt. Charles Dickens brave the warmer than average temperatures at the sun rise ceremony Mar. 7. The sun, now quite a bit higher in the Thule, sky peeked through storm clouds for the event. Above right: Col. John. S. Haven, 821st Air Base Group Commander, and Commander Tommy Toft, Danish Liaison Officer finish the last of their "toast to Team Thule and the sun." Skoal!

...Cont'd from Pg. 7

"I wasn't overweight, didcholesterol concerns," and your family history."

factors for both was heredity. birthday come and go. Four of Mrs. Mannings' un-

grandmother suffered from heart disease too.

Although both these ston't suffer from high blood ries have happy endings many pressure and had no high do not. As American Heart she Month draws to a close offisaid. "Be aware of your body cials said it is important that everyone remember to watch While both women were for warning signs and reduce smokers and not exercise en- risk factors as much as possithusiasts, one of the main risk ble so they can see another

"I turned 52 on Dec. 15, cles suffered heart attacks, and I was tickled pea green to and Ms. Hulett's mother and see that birthday," Ms. Hulett said.

Want to make a difference at Team Thule?

Volunteer for the Thule Air **Base Color Guard!**

For more info., call Tech Sgt. John Link at 2288

The Lighter Side of Thule







Photo by Capt. James Allman

Clockwise from top right: Tech Sgt. Ryan Wortman sits on top of a snow drift..and a yield sign. Several Thule-ites try their hand at mukluk hockey on a very frozen-over Lake Sparum. The First Light Festival leaves Senior Airman Hamre in a state of delightful shock. Capt. Nielsen proves that his future (or maybe just the sun) is so bright he's got to wear shades. A table of 12 SWS-ers find good food and friends (and beer) at the First Light Festival.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christian Pardue



Photo by Capt. James Allman

Recently promoted or awarded a medal? Did you just arrive at Thule? Let folks back home know about it. Fill out a Hometown News Release—stop by Public Affairs, Bldg. 461, rm 9, or call 5678.

Thule Times Editorial Staff

Col. John Haven II, 821st Air Base Group Commander 1st Lt. Jennifer Tribble, chief, public affairs Add your name here as a staff writer!—call PA at 5678

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